

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Action mailed August 20, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3 - 13, 15 - 25 and 27 - 33 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, 25 and 27, and have canceled claims 2, 14 and 26 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 14 and 26 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 – 7, 9 – 12, 14 – 24 and 26 – 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicant has rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations previously presented in claim 2, has rewritten claim 13 to include the limitations previously presented in claim 14, and has rewritten claim 25 to include the limitations previously presented in claim 24. Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that these independent claims are in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 – 7, 9 – 12, 15 – 23 and 26 – 32 are dependent claims that incorporate the limitations of their respective independent claims, i.e., claims 1, 13 and 25, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully notes that the Office Action presents rather broad, conclusory statements as to why the claims are allowed over the cited art. Applicant wishes to point out that

each claim recites distinct limitations and combinations thereof that are believe to patentably define over the cited art, and that the general statement of allowability presented in the Office Action should not be misconstrued as the only basis for allowability.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 8, 13, 25 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lee et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,449,027). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that each of these claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from a claim that has been indicated as being in condition for allowance, as set forth above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Cited Art Made of Record

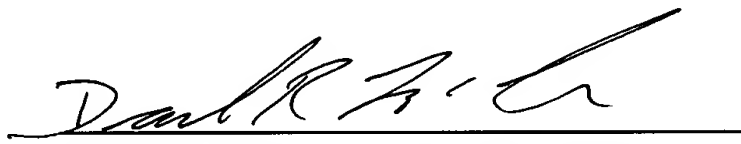
The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500